

# Special Session

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	5
<b>Meeting Date</b>	September 19, 2005
<b>Prepared By</b>	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
<b>Approved By</b>	Suzanne Ludlow Community and Government Liaison

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Resolution Concerning a Response to Hurricane Katrina
<b>Background</b>	Residents and the City Council have expressed concern about the inadequate response to Hurricane Katrina and its devastating impact on the Gulf Coast region. The attached resolution was prepared by Councilmembers Austin-Lane and Seamens. It calls for an independent, non-partisan commission to investigate the causes of the failure of government to prepare for and respond to the hurricane. The resolution encourages other jurisdictions to adopt similar resolutions. In addition, the resolution calls for a discussion of the issues in the Takoma Park community, beginning with a Town Hall meeting to be held in October.
<b>Policy</b>	The City Council is concerned about emergency preparedness.
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	Expenses associated with televising the Town Hall meeting on City TV if the event is to be televised.
<b>Attachments</b>	Draft Resolution
<b>Recommendation</b>	Council to consider and adopt the resolution.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	

Introduced by:

**Resolution 2005-  
Concerning the Response to Hurricane Katrina**

**WHEREAS,** the population of the United States depends upon the Government at all levels to provide the capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from both natural and man-made disasters; and

**WHEREAS,** numerous studies have shown the vulnerability of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Region to a major hurricane; and

**WHEREAS,** there was advance warning of Hurricane Katrina's approach toward the vulnerable Gulf Coast Region, which includes many of the nation's most impoverished citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** despite the above, the response at all levels of government was inadequate to protect and evacuate susceptible residents (especially in New Orleans), particularly those with limited or no means to arrange for evacuation themselves; and

**WHEREAS,** failure to clearly understand and address the causes of the inadequate response to Hurricane Katrina will compromise the ability of Takoma Park and other communities in America to effectively prepare for and respond to future natural or man-made disasters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland calls for an independent non-partisan commission to investigate the causes of the failure of government to adequately prepare for and respond to Hurricane Katrina. Furthermore, the commission shall consider the perspectives of local, state, and federal jurisdictions, and include the necessary range of expertise needed to draw objective and informed conclusions, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City Council will share this Resolution with other jurisdictions, and urge their adoption of similar resolutions, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City Council will engage its residents in a public discussion of the above issues and their implications for Takoma Park and the broader community, beginning with a Town Hall meeting to be held in early October.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.